

LOWELL E. GRAHAM

A native of Greeley, Colorado, Lowell E. Graham is the Chairman of the Music Department at the University of Texas at El Paso and is the recipient the Abraham Chavez Professorship in Music. He enjoys a distinguished career conducting ensembles in many musical media, including the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra, the Virginia Symphony, the Spokane Symphony, the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, the American Promenade Orchestra, the Greeley Philharmonic, Palm Beach Chamber Orchestra, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Banda Sinfonica do Estado de Sao Paulo, Orquestra de Sopros Brasileira, the National Symphonic Winds, the National Chamber Players, the Avatar Brass Ensemble and the Denver Brass. In 2006 he was named Director Honorifico Anual for the Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional de Paraguay. He has held numerous conducting positions to include that of the Commander and Conductor of the United States Air Force's premier musical organization in Washington, DC. While there he became the senior ranking musician in the Department of Defense.

Graham has initiated many important media projects for American Public Radio and other broadcasting organizations, as well as live telecast/webcast concerts and video productions on which his credits include those of conductor, writer and musical producer. He is a frequent guest on radio talk shows and performed on NBC's Today Show for five consecutive years on Independence Day.

Graham's Grammy-winning recordings have been recognized in *Stereophile's* "Records To Die For" list and *The Absolute Sound's* "The Super Disc List".

EXCURSIONS

U.S. AIR FORCE BAND

COL LOWELL E. GRAHAM, COMMANDER / CONDUCTOR

**STAMP
SPARKE
BROUGHTON
BARNES**





**1 JACK
STAMP** (b. 1954)
**FANFARE FOR
A NEW ERA** (2:20)
(Kjos)

**PHILIP
SPARKE** (b. 1951)
**DANCE
MOVEMENTS** (20:37)
(Studio Music)

- 2 RITMICO** (3:14)
- 3 MOLTO VIVO** (5:07)
- 4 LENTO** (4:58)
- 5 MOLTO RITMICO** (7:11)

**6 BRUCE
BROUGHTON** (b. 1945)
EXCURSIONS* (6:24)
(Black Squirrel Music)

**JAMES
BARNES** (b. 1949)
SYMPHONY No. 3 (38:38)
(Southern Music)

- 7 LENTO** (12:56)
- 8 SCHERZO** (5:31)
- 9 MESTO (FOR NATALIE)** (13:11)
- 10 FINALE** (6:58)

TOTAL TIME 68:00

stated by muted brass. Both themes return for full band by the end of the movement. Exquisite in its simplicity, the hauntingly beautiful third movement is a fantasia in the form ABCABC-Coda. Balancing the entire work, the fourth movement is again in sonata form. The first theme is stated by the horns, and as previously mentioned, the second theme is the tune of the children's hymn.

As a member of both the band and theory-composition faculties at the University of Kansas since 1977, James Barnes teaches orchestration and composition. He conducts the wind ensemble and the concert band. His numerous works for concert band are extensively performed in the United States, Europe, Japan, Taiwan and Australia. He has twice received the American Bandmasters Association Ostwald Award for outstanding contemporary wind band music. In recent years, Barnes has been commissioned to compose works for all five of the major military bands in the Washington, D.C. area.

- FROM NOTES BY MSGT GREGORY A. BROWN



spirit, a reconciliation for us all. The second theme is based on an old Lutheran children's hymn called *I Am Jesus' Little Lamb*. It was sung at Natalie's funeral. The last stanza reads:

*Who so happy as I am
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By his angel host attended
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.
Three days after I completed this symphony, my son
Billy was born.*

Barnes draws freely on all the harmonies and textures available to a composer at the end of the twentieth century, but contains them within the traditional forms for the movements of a symphony. The first movement is a modified sonata form, with an extended coda. The second is an ABA form in the subdominant F minor. The outer A themes appear in the woodwinds and percussion, with the B themes

U.S. AIR FORCE BAND

COL LOWELL GRAHAM, Commander/Conductor

***CMSGT Ronald L. Blais**, Trumpet

RECORDED 21-25 JANUARY 1996

**AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, FAIRFAX VA**

PRODUCED BY COL Lowell E. Graham

CO-PRODUCED BY MAJ Frank J. Grzych II and 1LT Scott A. Guidry

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MSGT William D. Porter

RECORDED, EDITED AND REMASTERED BY Bruce Leek

ASSISTANT ENGINEER TSGT Kendall S. Thomsen

COVER AND LAYOUT BY Stacie A. Heyen

MICROPHONES Sennheiser MKH20, Sennheiser MKH40, Audio Technica AT4049, Beyer M160
MICROPHONE PRE-AMPS Millennia Media HV-3, FM Acoustics Class-Amps, Grace Design 801
RECORDING CONSOLE Ramsa WRS4424 (modified by John Windt)
CABLES MIT-CVT 2C/3D, MIT Z-Center Power Conditioning
SPEAKERS ATC SCM 20SLA Monitors
RECORDERS Tascam DA38
DAT DECKS Panasonic SV3800
PROCESSOR Prism Sound ADA-8, Prism Sound MR2024T interface
REFERENCE HEADPHONES Sony MDR V6



The U.S. Air Force Band is at the forefront of preserving and enriching America's musical heritage by presenting repertoire that is centristic and exploring. This recording presents new music composed for, and commissioned by, the U.S. Air Force Band that is immediately accessible, joyful as well as powerful, and most of all, lasting. In preparing each work, we realized that we were on a very exciting and responsible journey introducing these new American works. Enjoy this listening journey by experiencing music of new masters performed by America's premier wind band, the U.S. Air Force Band.

COMMANDER/CONDUCTOR



Broughton is a member of the Board of Directors of ASCAP, a Governor of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, a Past President of the Society of Composers and Lyricists, a former Governor of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and he is a lecturer at at UCLA and USC.

James Barnes's *Symphony No. 3* is a deeply personal work, born out of the emotional trauma Barnes experienced at the loss of a child. About the symphony, he tells us:

I poured my soul into it for two years. It is the most difficult and emotionally draining piece I have ever written...Most of it came together after we lost our baby daughter, Natalie. The work progresses from darkness to light... The first movement is such a piece of frustration, bitterness and total despondency. The Scherzo has a bittersweetness, a sarcasm about it, since it has to do with the pomposity of certain people in this world. The third movement is a fantasia about what my world would have been like if Natalie had lived; and it is my farewell to her...The Finale is a rebirth of



Angular melodies and driving rhythms characterize the piece, permeating the “various musical situations” through which the solo trumpet leads the band. Broughton masterfully uses fragments of the opening thematic material – including wide leaps, syncopations and a rising sixteenth-note figure – in countless new combinations. The end result is a musical journey with an ever-changing view, yet in territory that always seems familiar. *Excursions* was premiered by the U.S. Air Force Band, with CMSGT Ronald Blais as soloist, at the Florida Music Educators Association convention in January 1996.

Bruce Broughton is one of today’s most versatile film composers. His first major film score, for *Silverado*, brought him an Oscar nomination. Demonstrating the breadth of his talent, even a small sampling of his work includes everything from film scores for *The Presidio*, *The Rescuers Down Under* and *Honey, I Blew Up the Kid*, to themes for the television series *JAG* and the score for the miniseries *The Blue and the Gray*. To date, he has won ten Emmys for his work in television, most recently in 2005 for the score to *Warm Springs*.

F*anfare for a New Era* was written as a celebration of COL Lowell E. Graham’s appointment as the Commander and Conductor of the U.S. Air Force Band. The work was composed specifically for the band’s performance at the 1995 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. It derives its framework from the opening trumpet motif, which is then expanded and developed through a variety of musical dimensions and techniques. The composer states “As I envisioned the piece, I knew that I heard something energetic and vibrant, highlighting the talents of this world-class ensemble and serving as a fitting opener for this concert.”

Jack Stamp is Professor of Music, Chairperson of the Department of Music and Director of Band Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he also teaches conducting and percussion. He received a DMA in wind conducting from Michigan State University where he studied with Eugene Corporon. His principal composition teachers were Robert Washburn and Fisher Tull; more recent studies have included work with David Diamond, Joan Tower and Richard Danielpour. He was awarded the title “University Professor” for



the 2008–2009 academic year at IUP. This is the highest award the University gives to a professor.

Philip Sparke's ***Dance Movements*** is a tour-de-force for wind band and is freely based on a variety of rhythms. The second and third movements, which feature the woodwind and brass sections respectively, showcase the unique colors and capabilities of these families of instruments. All four movements are performed without pause, which increasingly draws the listener into the “world” of this work, and heightens the growing sense of anticipation as the piece builds to its dramatic and virtuosic finale.

The composer notes that this is the first concert band composition in which he used the piano: “Although it is by no means a ‘solo’ part, its presence did tend to colour my thinking throughout, and the music somehow centered on it in terms of colour and rhythm.”

Philip Sparke was born in London, England, and studied composition, trumpet and piano at the Royal College of Music. While he was there

he developed an interest in bands, and began writing for them at the urging of his composition teacher, Philip Cannon. 1975 marked the composition of his first published works, *Concert Prelude* for brass band and *Gaudium* for wind band. Since then Sparke has written for wind bands in Europe, America and the Pacific Rim. ***Dance Movements*** was premiered by the U.S. Air Force Band at the Florida Music Educators Association convention in January 1996.

Excursions for Trumpet and Band is aptly named, for in this new work, Mr. Broughton explores the diverse technical and expressive capabilities of the trumpet. Broughton has commented about this piece:

Although not literally a programmatic piece, ***Excursions*** is based upon a tune that wanders in and out of various musical situations. After a short introduction by the soloist, the main theme is presented over a lightly ambling accompaniment. The theme travels this way and that, running into some interesting diversions along the way and eventually meeting itself where it began – at the introduction.